Ute Indians May Become Oil Barons

Attempt to speed the settlement of the claims of the Ute Indians to surface and sub-surface rights to a large area in Colorado and eastern Utah took the form of a bill which was introduced in the senate last week by Senators Johnson and Millikin of Colorado and Senator Arthur V. Watkins of Utah, John S. Boyden, prominent Salt Lake attorney and counsel for the Indians, has been advised.

According to Mr. Boyden the bill would permit the court of claims to enter separate judgments for surface and subsurface rights if the claims of the Indians rights are upheld.

Voluminous testimony was taken during last summer on the claims of the Indians to surface rights. Mr. Boyden expressed the opinion the referee hearing these claims would soon hand down a decision.

When the rights of the Indians are determined and the amount fixed for payment, the decision will be appealed to the circuit court of appeals and probably to the U. S. supreme court for final determination.

The Indian claims include oil fields, mines and forests valued at millions of dollars.